

The following is a complete listing of all claims in the application, with an indication of the status of each:

Listing of claims:

- 1 1. (currently amended) A method of trial purchase for allowing users of a
2 plurality of terminals connected to commodity providing means through a
3 network to experience a purchase procedure of a commodity provided from
4 said commodity providing means through said network, said method
5 comprising the steps of:
6 displaying information for a user about a commodity provided from
7 said commodity providing means for trial purchase on one of said terminals;
8 determining by a computer whether or not the user is eligible for a trial
9 purchase procedure, said determination being made from a database recording
10 prior uses of said commodity providing means, including prior uses of said
11 trial purchase procedure, said prior uses being counted against said eligibility;
12 if the user is determined to be eligible, performing by a computer for
13 the user using said terminal said trial purchase procedure and recording in said
14 database said performance as a prior use of said trial purchase procedure by
15 said user; and
16 if the user is determined not to be eligible, notifying by a computer the
17 user at said terminal that said trial purchase procedure cannot be provided.
- 1 2. (previously presented) The method of trial purchase according to claim 1,
2 further comprising the steps of:
3 storing a delivery destination in a previous purchase of the user; and

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4 providing delivery of said commodity for trial purchase to said
5 previously stored destination when said commodity for trial purchase is
6 specified on said terminal.

1 3. (previously presented) The method of trial purchase according to claim 1,
2 further comprising the steps of:
3 storing a delivery destination in a previous purchase of the user;
4 displaying said previously stored destination on said terminal when
5 said commodity for trial purchase is specified on said terminal; and
6 designating said previously stored destination or a newly designated
7 destination as a destination of said commodity.

1 4. (original) The method of trial purchase according to claim 3, further
2 comprising the step of storing said newly designated destination.

1 5. (original) The method of trial purchase according to claim 1, wherein said
2 commodity for trial purchase is free of charge.

1 6. (original) The method of trial purchase according to claim 2, wherein said
2 commodity for trial purchase is free of charge.

1 7. (original) The method of trial purchase according to claim 3, wherein said
2 commodity for trial purchase is free of charge.

1 8. (original) The method of trial purchase according to claim 4, wherein said
2 commodity for trial purchase is free of charge.

1 9. (currently amended) A trial purchase system comprising:

2 a plurality of terminals;
3 commodity providing means connected to said plurality of terminals
4 through a network for displaying information about a commodity for trial
5 purchase to a user on one of said terminals and providing said commodity for
6 trial purchase to a destination designated on said terminal when said
7 commodity for trial purchase is specified on said terminal;
8 computer means for determining whether or not the user is eligible for
9 a trial purchase procedure, said determination being made from a database
10 recording prior uses of said commodity providing means, including prior uses
11 of said trial purchase procedure, said prior uses being counted against said
12 eligibility;
13 computer means for performing for the user using said terminal, if the
14 user is determined to be eligible, said purchase procedure for trial purchase
15 and recording in said database said performance as a prior use by said user of
16 said trial purchase procedure; and
17 computer means for notifying the user at said terminal, if the user is
18 determined not to be eligible, that said trial purchase procedure cannot be
19 provided.

1 10. (previously presented) The trial purchase system according to claim 9,
2 wherein said commodity providing means includes means for storing a
3 delivery destination of a previous purchase of the user and providing delivery
4 of said commodity for trial purchase to said previously stored destination
5 when said commodity for trial purchase is specified on said terminal.

1 11. (previously presented) The trial purchase system according to claim 9,
2 wherein said commodity providing means includes means for storing a
3 delivery destination of a previous purchase of the user and providing delivery

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4 of said commodity for trial purchase to a newly designated destination when
5 said commodity for trial purchase is specified on said terminal and said new
6 destination is designated therefor.

1 12. (original) The trial purchase system according to claim 11, wherein said
2 commodity providing means includes means for storing said newly designated
3 destination.

1 13. (original) The trial purchase system according to claim 10, further
2 comprising customer information storing means for storing information on
3 said destinations.

1 14. (original) The trial purchase system according to claim 11, further
2 comprising customer information storing means for storing information on
3 said destinations.

1 15. (original) The trial purchase system according to claim 12, further
2 comprising customer information storing means for storing information on
3 said destinations.

1 16. (original) The trial purchase system according to claim 9, further
2 comprising commodity information storing means for storing information on
3 said commodity.

1 17. (original) The trial purchase system according to claim 10, further
2 comprising commodity information storing means for storing information on
3 said commodity.

1 18. (original) The trial purchase system according to claim 11, further
2 comprising commodity information storing means for storing information on
3 said commodity.

1 19. (original) The trial purchase system according to claim 12, further
2 comprising commodity information storing means for storing information on
3 said commodity.

1 20. (original) The trial purchase system according to claim 13, further
2 comprising commodity information storing means for storing information on
3 said commodity.

1 21. (original) The trial purchase system according to claim 14, further
2 comprising commodity information storing means for storing information on
3 said commodity.

1 22. (original) The trial purchase system according to claim 15, further
2 comprising commodity information storing means for storing information on
3 said commodity.

1 23. (previously presented) The trial purchase system according to claim 13,
2 further comprising backup means, said backup means comprising means for
3 holding the information on the destinations stored in said customer
4 information storing means.

1 24. (previously presented) The trial purchase system according to claim 14,
2 further comprising backup means, said backup means comprising means for

3 holding the information on the destinations stored in said customer
4 information storing means.

1 25. (previously presented) The trial purchase system according to claim 15,
2 further comprising backup means, said backup means comprising means for
3 holding the information on the destinations stored in said customer
4 information storing means.

1 26. (previously presented) The trial purchase system according to claim 16,
2 further comprising backup means, said backup means comprising means for
3 holding the commodity information stored in said commodity information
4 storing means.

1 27. (previously presented) The trial purchase system according to claim 17,
2 further comprising backup means for holding the commodity information
stored in said commodity information storing means.

1 28. (previously presented) The trial purchase system according to claim 18,
2 further comprising backup means for holding the commodity information
3 stored in said commodity information storing means.

1 29. (previously presented) The trial purchase system according to claim 19,
2 further comprising backup means for holding the commodity information
3 stored in said commodity information storing means.

1 30. (previously presented) The trial purchase system according to claim 20,
2 further comprising backup means for holding the commodity information
3 stored in said commodity information storing means.

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1 31. (previously presented) The trial purchase system according to claim 21,
2 further comprising backup means for holding the commodity information
3 stored in said commodity information storing means.

1 32. (previously presented) The trial purchase system according to claim 22,
2 further comprising backup means for holding the commodity information
3 stored in said commodity information storing means.

1 33. (original) The trial purchase system according to claim 9, wherein said
2 commodity providing means includes means for providing said commodity for
3 trial purchase at no charge.

1 34. (currently amended) A method of gathering customer information on
2 users of a plurality of terminals from said terminals connected to a network,
3 said method comprising the steps of:

4 providing said terminal with information on a commodity for trial
5 purchase to allow experience of a procedure of commodity purchase through
6 said network;

7 causing entry of customer information on a user who makes an order
8 for said commodity based on said commodity information into said terminal
9 when said order is received;

10 determining by a computer whether or not said user is eligible for trial
11 purchase of said commodity, said determination being made from a database
12 recording prior use by said user of said procedure of commodity purchase
13 through said network, including prior purchases of a commodity for trial
14 purchase, said prior uses being counted against said eligibility;

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15 if the user is determined to be eligible, placing said received order and
16 recording said order in said database as a prior purchase of a commodity for
17 trial purchase; and
18 if the user is determined not to be eligible, notifying the user at said
19 terminal that said received order cannot be placed.

1 35. (previously presented) The method of gathering customer information
2 according to claim 34, wherein said customer information is previously stored
3 and said previously stored customer information is updated when said
4 commodity for trial purchase is ordered on said terminal.

1 36. (original) The method of gathering customer information according to
2 claim 35, further comprising the step of storing the name of said commodity
3 for trial purchase in correspondence with the customer information of said
4 user who ordered said commodity.

1 37. (original) The method of gathering customer information according to
2 claim 34, wherein said commodity for trial purchase is free of charge.

1 38. (original) The method of gathering customer information according to
2 claim 35, wherein said commodity for trial purchase is free of charge.

1 39. (original) The method of gathering customer information according to
2 claim 36, wherein said commodity for trial purchase is free of charge.

1 40. (currently amended) A customer information gathering system
2 comprising:
3 a plurality of terminals;

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4 information gathering means connected to said plurality of terminals
5 through a network for providing said terminal with information on a
6 commodity for trial purchase to allow experience of a procedure of
7 commodity purchase through said network and requiring entry of customer
8 information on a user who makes an order for a commodity based on said
9 commodity information when said order is received,
10 means for determining whether said user is eligible for trial purchase
11 of said commodity, said determination being made from a record of prior use
12 by said user of said procedure of commodity purchase through said network,
13 including prior purchases of a commodity for trial purchase, said prior uses
14 being counted against said eligibility, and
15 means for placing said received order and recording said order as a
16 prior use by said user of said procedure for purchase of a commodity for trial
17 purchase if the user is determined to be eligible and notifying the user at said
18 terminal that said received order cannot be placed if the user is determined not
19 to be eligible.

1 41. (previously presented) The customer information gathering system
2 according to claim 40, wherein said information gathering means includes
3 means for previously storing said customer information and allowing an
4 update in said previously stored customer information when said commodity
5 for trial purchase is ordered on said terminal.

1 42. (original) The customer information gathering system according to claim
2 41, wherein said information gathering means includes means for storing the
3 name of said commodity for trial purchase in correspondence with the
4 customer information of said user who ordered said commodity.

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1 43. (original) The customer information gathering system according to claim
2 41, further comprising customer information storing means for storing said
3 customer information.

1 44. (original) The customer information gathering system according to claim
2 42, further comprising customer information storing means for storing said
3 customer information.

1 45. (original) The customer information gathering system according to claim
2 40, further comprising commodity information storing means for storing said
3 information on said commodity.

1 46. (original) The customer information gathering system according to claim
2 42, further comprising commodity information storing means for storing said
3 information on said commodity.

1 47. (original) The customer information gathering system according to claim
2 43, further comprising commodity information storing means for storing said
3 information on said commodity.

1 48. (original) The customer information gathering system according to claim
2 44, further comprising commodity information storing means for storing said
3 information on said commodity.

1 49. (previously presented) The customer information gathering system
2 according to claim 43, further comprising backup means for holding said
3 customer information stored in said customer information storing means.

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1 50. (previously presented) The customer information gathering system
2 according to claim 44, further comprising backup means for holding said
3 customer information stored in said customer information storing means.

1 51. (previously presented) The customer information gathering system
2 according to claim 45, further comprising backup means for holding said
3 commodity information stored in said commodity information storing means.

1 52. (previously presented) The customer information gathering system
2 according to claim 46, further comprising backup means for holding said
3 commodity information stored in said commodity information storing means.

1 53. (previously presented) The customer information gathering system
2 according to claim 47, further comprising backup means for holding said
3 commodity information stored in said commodity information storing means.

1 54. (previously presented) The customer information gathering system
2 according to claim 48, further comprising backup means for holding said
3 commodity information stored in said commodity information storing means.

1 55. (original) The customer information gathering system according to claim
2 40, wherein said information gathering system includes means for providing
3 said commodity for trial purchase at no charge.

1 56. (currently amended) A selling system, connected to a plurality of
2 terminals through a network and held by a company, organization or the like
3 providing a commodity in response to an order from said plurality of
4 terminals, for providing a commodity for trial purchase for allowing users of

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5 said terminals to experience a purchase procedure of said commodity to a
6 destination designated on said terminal, said selling system comprising
7 means for displaying information on said commodity for trial purchase
8 on said terminal and making an order to provide said commodity for trial
9 purchase to said destination designated on said terminal when said commodity
10 is specified on said terminal by a user;
11 means for determining whether said user is eligible for trial purchase
12 of said commodity, said determination being made from a record of prior use
13 by said user of said procedure of commodity purchase through said network,
14 including prior purchases of a commodity for trial purchase, said prior uses
15 being counted against said eligibility, and
16 means for placing said received order and recording said order as a
17 prior use by said user of said procedure for purchase of a commodity for trial
18 purchase if the user is determined to be eligible and notifying the user at said
19 terminal that said received order cannot be placed if the user is determined not
20 to be eligible.

1 57. (previously presented) The selling system according to claim 56, wherein
2 said commodity for trial purchase is provided at no charge.

1 58. (previously presented) The selling system according to claim 56, further
2 comprising backup means for holding functions of said selling system and
3 information accumulated in said selling system.

1 59. (previously presented) The selling system according to claim 57, further
2 comprising backup means for holding functions of said selling system and
3 information accumulated in said selling system.

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1 60. (previously presented) The method for trial purchase according to claim
2 1, further comprising the steps of:
3 displaying a price of a free commodity; and
4 displaying a page for selecting a payment method.

1 61. (previously presented) The trial purchase system according to claim 9,
2 wherein said commodity providing means displays the price of a free
3 commodity and a page for selecting a payment method using one of said
4 terminals.